

### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, the President's jobs message was clear and powerful: Government made America great, and government can make it great again. This misguided view explains why 2 years after the recession supposedly ended, we are still left suffering with a second-rate economy that is being held up to ridicule by the world as our Nation sinks deeper into debt and 22 million Americans can't find work.

I was looking for real leadership—an admission the President's economic policies have failed and a call for a new start, a fresh new direction for this dismal economy. Other than the call for passing the free trade agreements, which the President himself continues to hold up, what America witnessed was a shopping cart of gimmicks to special interest voting blocs paid for by crushing tax increases on the very consumers and job creators we need to get out of this dismal economy.

If you liked the leadership of the last 2 years on the economy, you're going to love this President's jobs agenda.

### GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, having spent the last several weeks in Rhode Island with families, small business owners, manufacturers and builders, people in my district are hurting, facing real struggles every single day. The jobs crisis is causing real anxiety and real havoc in their daily lives.

Last night, the President laid out a serious plan to get Rhode Islanders and Americans back to work. The President put forth a jobs plan that reflects many of the priorities I have been working on and have heard during my community suppers, small business tours, and visits with manufacturers. We heard strategies to rebuild American manufacturing and to make it in America again, creating jobs by enacting small business tax cuts, supporting workers by expanding middle class tax cuts, and rebuilding our Nation's roads, bridges, and schools. And providing greater support and job opportunities for returning veterans, the long-term unemployed, and our young people.

The time for taking action to create jobs is now. Americans have endured the crushing consequences of this economic recession for far too long, and there is no time to waste.

### TEXAS FIRES

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, since December, fires have been ravaging drought-stricken Texas, claiming 2 lives, more than 1,500 homes, and 3.5 million acres of land. My deepest prayers and sympathy go out to the victims of these wildfires. My thanks and appreciation go out to those brave firefighters battling these devastating flames.

FEMA and the White House must help Texas during this time of natural disaster and provide the tools needed to fight these devastating fires. Disasters like these fires is why FEMA was created. Just this week, fires have crept into eight more counties, forcing thousands to evacuate and wait in fear, praying their homes and life savings don't go up in smoke.

I'll do more than pray. The House of Representatives will find the necessary tools to combat this disaster, and I'll push government at all levels to provide the necessary resources for firefighters.

If you live in one of these danger zones, like folks in Bastrop and surrounding counties, please listen to Federal, State, and local officials' warnings and advice. And I will continue to pray for rain and the safety of those involved in this disaster and those in harm's way.

### CONGRESS SHOULD DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AMERICA

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a simple message: Let's stay here and work for America. Last night, the President stood right there and challenged us to do what's right for America. We should do that. But you know what we're going to do? We're going to knock off early at noon today.

The President wasn't allowed to speak on Wednesday because we had important business: we had one procedural vote to allow the Capitol grounds to be used for an event. That is unacceptable. We should stay here and work and git 'er done.

Last night, I brought Lee Hiller to the speech. Lee is a heavy crane operator with the Operating Engineers. He said one thing to me: I've got guys who want to work; they're ready to work; put us to work.

Today, schoolteachers are waking up all across America, getting up early and staying late to educate our children. Nurses are going to work 12-hour shifts curing the sick, and veterans overseas will work long hours protecting this Nation. The least we can do is stay here and do our job.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Americans all across this country, call their Member of Congress, tell them to git 'er done and work the way they're paid to do. Let's stay here and do that.

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### LET'S INVEST IN AMERICA

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, last night the President stood here to speak to us. He came to talk about his proposed American Jobs Act.

I'm sure each and every one of us heard what we wanted to, didn't hear what we wanted to, and we took away different things after that speech. But what we all should have heard is that we were hired—I think those words were great—we were hired to do a job. And we must do that job. People are not going to wait 14 months for us to get our act together, especially those who are unemployed.

We should also have heard the cry for the future of our Nation. The President said we must invest in our future. We must become the number one nation again. We cannot let China outbuild us, and neither can we have China and Europe take over manufacturing.

Those are things that we, the United States, have been known for. We must do that. We must invest in ourselves again. We must invest in becoming the number one nation in the world. And we can do that if we are all committed to "Make It In America."

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot put the pride of our Nation before all of us, we will never come together. Let us invest in America.

### WORK TOGETHER TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the horror of 9/11 struck this great Nation. But in its aftermath I have never seen this Nation or this Congress so united and so determined to make sure that we protect our citizens and that it does not happen again. We came together with such a strong purpose.

We need to come together again with a strong purpose behind the President's jobs proposal. Fourteen million Americans are out of work. He has a plan. Let's unify, let's work together, and let's put Americans back to work building our crumbling infrastructure, repairing our schools, investing in innovation, education, and working together. We did it after 9/11, that great crisis. We can do it again.

The President has a plan. Let's get behind that plan. If the Republicans have a plan, then put it forth. Let's look at it. Let's work together and put Americans back to work.

### INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative